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Trade and Development Board
Trade and Development Commission
Multi-year Expert Meeting on Promoting Economic Integration and Cooperation
Third session
Geneva, 2–3 July 2015
Item 2 of the provisional agenda
Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

Provisional agenda and annotations

I. Provisional agenda

1. Election of officers
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
3. Strengthening subregional, regional and interregional dialogue and cooperation and their contributions to economic integration and development
4. Adoption of the report of the meeting

II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

Item 1
Election of officers

1. It is recommended that the expert meeting elect a Chair and a Vice-Chair-cum-Rapporteur.

Item 2
Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

2. The provisional agenda for the expert meeting is reproduced in chapter I above. A detailed programme will be available one week before the meeting.

Documentation

TD/B/C.I/MEM.6/7 Provisional agenda and annotations

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Item 3
Strengthening subregional, regional and interregional dialogue and cooperation and their contributions to economic integration and development

3. The third session of the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Promoting Economic Integration and Cooperation will be held in accordance with the terms of reference approved on 18 November 2013. The objective of this session is to discuss how strengthening subregional, regional and interregional dialogue and cooperation can contribute to economic integration and development of developing countries and transition economies.

4. Development-oriented economic integration of developing countries into the world economy can spur global growth and reduce poverty and inequality in the world. However, identifying successful ways and means of achieving this integration remains a daunting challenge. In an era of a less favourable trade environment, export-led strategies of developing countries and countries with transition economies are reaching their limits. Adjusting to the changing dynamics of the world economy will necessarily involve relying more on regional and domestic markets. Regional integration at various levels, however, faces different challenges, and solutions may involve diverse policies, mechanisms and instruments.

5. The third session of the multi-year expert meeting will explore under what conditions trade could become a growth engine in a process of regional integration. Participants will also discuss productive integration as the basis of development-oriented regional integration, given that the issue of infrastructure continues to be pivotal for a deeper regional productive integration. The potential role of regional value chains as a possible way forward for development-oriented regional integration will also be highlighted. Finally, the issues related to financing for development-oriented regional integration will be explored. Bridging the gap between the investment needs of developing countries and transition economies, in particular their infrastructure needs, and the current available finance will be critical for any form of deeper regional productive integration. Experts are expected to bring to the meeting their own perspectives and to highlight specific issues in connection with their areas of expertise.

6. To facilitate discussion, the UNCTAD secretariat has prepared a background note. In addition, experts are encouraged to prepare articles on the subject under discussion. These papers will be made available at the meeting in the form and language in which they are received.

Documentation

TD/B/C.I/MEM.6/8	Strengthening subregional, regional and interregional dialogue and cooperation and their contributions to economic integration and development: Policy lessons for development-oriented regional integration

Item 4
Adoption of the report of the meeting

7. The report of the expert meeting will be submitted to the Trade and Development Commission at its next session. The expert meeting may wish to authorize the Rapporteur, under the authority of the Chair, to prepare the final report after the conclusion of the meeting.

Input from experts

Experts nominated by member States are encouraged to submit brief papers (approximately 5–12 pages) as contributions to the work of the meeting. The papers will be made available at the meeting in the form and language in which they are received. They should be submitted to the UNCTAD secretariat in advance of the meeting and addressed to Mr. Igor Paunovic, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, Palais des Nations, CH-1211, Geneva, Switzerland; phone: +41 22 917 5902; fax: +41 22 917 0050; e-mail: igor.paunovic@unctad.org.